

He kōrero whakanui i te huritau 80 o Miria Simpson

Nā Anne Delamare/Nō Te Whānau-a-Apanui

Ahako he iti noa ēnei kōrero ko te tūmanako tērā e whakaahua i te tū pakari, tū toa o tō tātou whaea o Miria i roto i ngā tau ki muri tae noa ki tēnei wā. Kua eketia nei e ia te taumata o tōna kaumātuatanga arā, ngā tau waru tekau.

Ko Miria nō te hapū o Taiwhakaea o Ngāti Awa, arā, nō te waka o Mātaatua. Ko te waka i tohungia rā e tana tipuna e Wairaka me tana whakatauāki ki ana uri arā, ki a Miria “E, kia tū whakatāne au i ahau”. He torotoronga hoki ōna ki a Tūhourangi ā, koia nei tō māua whakapapatanga ki a māua.

Ko te kura tuatahi o Miria ko te kura o Te Pāroa i Whakatāne. Ko ngā māhita a Mr rāua ko Mrs Clarke, nō Ingarangi. Nā rāua i whakatō te kākano i whāia ai e Miria te tohungatanga mō te reo Ingarihi. Ka tāpiri atu hoki ki tana reo Māori, e hika, kātahi nei te taonga tino whakahirahira.

I tūtaki māua ko Miria i te tau tahi mano, iwa rau, toru tekau mā rima i te kura tuarua o Wikitoria i Ākarana. I reira hoki a Putiputi Eruera; nā tana matua i mōhio ai mātou nō Tūhourangi. Ko Miria te mea iti o mātou katoa engari me ki, ko ia te kōtiro tino kamakama ā, ko ia hoki te tino whakapū kōrero e mau tonu nei. Ahako kōre i kite auau māua i a māua i ngā rā o te pakanga tuarua, nō te tau tahi mano, iwa rau, rima tekau mā waru ka tūtaki māua ki Pōneke.

Ko Miria i tīmata mahi hei hekeretari ki te Tūmuaki o te Whare Pukapuka o te Wānanga o Wikitoria. Ko au i haere hei ākonga i Wikitoria ki te whai i te Tohu Toko i te Ora (Diploma Social Science). I noho tahi māua mō ngā tau e rua i Pendennis Hostel – he whare nohoanga mō ngā kōtiro Māori e mahi ana i Pōneke.

Nō muri mai ka kitea he whare rihi mō māua ā, i nohotahi ai māua mō ngā tau tekau mā rua. Ko te tīmātanga tēnei o tētahi wā whakapātari mō māua. Ko te whakakoinga tēnei o tana hinengaro

mō ngā wāhanga whakaako, ā, ko tana hononga hoki hei kaiako pono mō ngā taurira Māori o te whare wānanga tae atu hoki ki ngā kaipūkenga. Koiane ana tamariki i akiakina e ia kia tutuki ai ā rātou whai i ngā tohu o te mātauranga. Rongona ana tana reo, wiriwiri ana ngā pona o ngā kaihianga. E mōhio ana ahau ko Miria tētahi o ngā wahine tino rongonui, kāore i te kāinga nei anake, engari i ngā tōpito o te ao.



Ko Miria Simpson rāua ko Anne Delamare

Kua haeretia e Miria te ao, ā, i noho ki Rānana mō ngā tau e waru. I whakapiri atu ia ki te Rōpū Māori o te Whare o Aotearoa. Ko rātou ngā kaiwhakahaere i ngā pōwhiri, hākari hoki mō ngā manuhiri tūārangi o te hau kāinga. Ko tētahi o ana manuhiri ko Te Arikini Te Atairangikaahu me tana hoa rangatira.

Ka whakahautia e Miria te māngai mō te Kāwanatanga kia tonu ki Aotearoa kia tukuna mai he tio mō tā rātou hākari. I te hinengaro pakari o te wahine nei, ka rangona tana reo ka oti ana hiahia. I Rānana anō hoki ka ea ana moemoeā kia rongu i ngā tohunga o te ao pūoro – tūtaki atu ana ki ērā manu tioriori o tāua, ki a Inia Te Wiata me Kiri Te Kanawa. I

te hokinga mai o Miria ki te wā kāinga ko tētahi o wana rangahau, he kohikohi i ngā kōhungahunga me te rangatahi ka hari ki ngā tūmomo kōnohete o te ao pūoro. Ki te kī a ngā mokopuna nei, me haere rā anō rātou ki tētahi konohete ka whakaaengia ki ētahi atu whakangahau.

Ka hoki mai a Miria, me ki, kua hāngai kē tana titiro ki te whai i ngā huarahi e kaingākauria ana e ia arā, ngā pūkenga o te ao Māori. E rārangi nei ētahi o ana mahi i whāia e ia.

I te Wāhanga Akoranga Māori o te Whare Wānanga o Waikato ko te nuinga o ana mahi he whakamāori, whakapākehā hoki i ngā kohikohinga tuhituhinga tawhito o taua whare wānanga nei e pupuri ana. Ka mutu tana mahi i Waikato ka hoki mai a Miria ki Pōneke, ka mahi ia mō te Papakupu Haurongo o Aotearoa hei Kaiwhakatika Tuhinga.

Ka mutu i reira, ka huri ki te Whare Pukapuka o Alexander Turnbull – ko tētahi mahi ātaahua i tutuki i a ia i reira ko tana taiopetanga i ngā whakakitenga o “Ngā Kupu Kōrero” me te pukapuka “Ngā Tohu o te Tiriti”. He nui noa atu ana toronga ki ngā huhua rōpū. He mema nō te Rōpū Wahine Māori Toko i te Ora, nō Ngā Puna Waihangā, nō Ngā Hoa o te Turnbull Library, nō Ngā hoa o te NZ Ballet, o te NZ Symphony Orchestra me te NZ Historic Places Trust.

I roto katoa i ēnei whāinga a te whaea nei, e kitea ai te hōhonu o tōna mōhiotanga me tana ngākau nui ki te reo Māori arā, ki ngā taonga katoa o te ao Māori. Ko ia te tohunga whakatakoto, whakahua, whakamārama me te whakamāori i te kupu. Nā roto i ēnei mahi katoa ka tika kia ūhia te hōnore nui o te Wānanga o Wikitoria arā te Tohu Tākutatanga ki runga i a Miria.

Ahako te iti o te whaea nei he kanohi kitea, he reo rongona i ngā tōpito o Aotearoa. Ko te tūmanako, kia manaaki tonuhia ia e tō tātou Ariki.